

July 29, 2015

City of Bastrop Government  
Bastrop, Louisiana

Mayor Arthur Jones and Town Aldermen,

The Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission (LAWC) performed an inspection of the Bastrop Animal Shelter on December 15, 2015. The inspectors included Ms. Ashley Delrie, LAWC's former director of the inspection program, and me, LAWC Vice-chair and state public health veterinarian with the Louisiana Department of Health.

Inspectors were impressed with the dedication, expertise, and work ethic of both the management and staff at the shelter. It was also apparent to the inspectors that city support for the facility is woefully lacking.

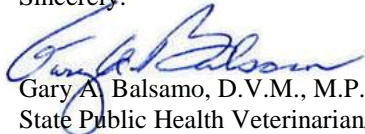
LAWC's inspection process involves two components. The first portion of the inspection deals with compliance with Louisiana law and LAWC shelter management guidelines. The second part of the inspection is concerned with shelter development of "standard practices" related to humane programs, community outreach, leadership, enforcement of laws, and progress toward becoming a very high quality shelter, one of the best in the state. Both sections are intended to provide valuable feedback to shelters and serve as a guide for future development.

Please see the attached Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission (LAWC) Inspection Form. The shelter was judged to fall short of LAWC standards primarily due to the absence of documented statistics tracking rabies vaccine compliance in animals adopted from the shelter, and the absence of a scanner that could be used to identify some animals. Scanning for microchips, according to LAWC guidelines, should be performed upon intake, and then again prior to euthanasia, adoption, or rescue. The food storage area showed evidence of a severe rodent infestation. This rodent infestation is not only a health risk to the animals, but is a risk to employees. The shelter is severely overcrowded and the structure itself is poorly constructed. There were also several other minor deficiencies noted.

The "average performance" rating in the shelter development section was due to recognition that several improvements would have to be made to bring the shelter's standard practices up to a most efficient level. The inspectors are aware, however, that the management of the shelter is lacking sufficient support from local government which would enable the humane organization to accomplish these goals.

This is the final report. A preliminary report was given to the shelter management team, and many suggested corrections have been made. LAWC will make the inspection documents available to the public thirty days after issuing this letter. Final ratings may be appealed. Any inspection under appeal will include the words "under appeal" next to the assigned rating in the rating box, until the issue can be addressed at a regular meeting of LAWC.

Sincerely:



Gary A. Balsamo, D.V.M., M.P.H. & T.M.  
State Public Health Veterinarian/Assistant State Epidemiologist

Attachments:  
LAWC Inspection Form  
Shelter Development Evaluation Form

*...to ensure and promote the proper treatment and well-being of animals*

Name of shelter: Bastrop Animal Shelter (Morehouse Humane Society)				Contact person: Dorothy Ford	
Phone: 318-281-3794				Email address: director@bastroplacoc.org	
Physical address: 6878 Mer Rouge Road Bastrop, LA 71220					
Name of inspector: Ashley Delrie, LAWC Shelter Inspection Director, Dr. Gary Balsamo, State PH veterinarian (LA Dept. of Health & Hosp.)				Date of inspection: December 15, 2015	
				Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Re-inspection <input type="checkbox"/>	
Critical	Major	Minor		Category	
				<b>A. Animal euthanasia</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
				<b>B. Management</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B1*	No structured training of employees by animal control experts, such as trainings by the LA Animal Control Assoc.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B4*	There is no structured inspection program carried out by parish officials	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B8	Overcrowded facility, lead to conditions where animals were not adequately separated as to gender (at time of inspection).	
				<b>C. Records</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C5	The shelter has no scanner.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C6,C7,C8*	Records are not detailed. No computer is available to staff. There is no daily documentation of health status of each animal.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
				<b>D. General structure</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D1	Some buildings are in deploarable condition and do not appear to be structurally sound.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D2	Electrical outlets are inadequate in some animal facilities.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D10	Ventilation in some indoor animal housing areas was inadequate permitting an accumulation of odors.	
				<b>E. Water and electric power</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E1	Hot running water should be available in all areas of the shelter.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E7	No back-up generator is available to the shelter on a regular basis.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
				<b>F. Waste disposal</b>	
			Citation	Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F2	There is no freezer or refrigerator present at the facility to temporarily hold carcasses prior to disposal, however euthanasias are not performed.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

				<b>G. Storage</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>H. Primary Enclosures</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H6	The shelter is small and the large population of animals is not conducive to single dog cages.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H7	ALL dog pen walls are not solid to sufficient height.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>I. Feeding and watering</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>J. Pest control</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	J1	Food storage area showed evidence of a severe rodent infestation. The structure was not sealed. Spilled food was everywhere. Rodent burrows are present in great numbers on the property. Some of the debris adjacent to the food storage container may serve as rodent harborage. The food container is not sealed to the elements and provides no barrier to rodent infestation. This rodent infestation is not only a health risk to the animals, but is a risk to employees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>K. Rabies quarantine</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				<b>L. Infection control and rabies vaccination requirements</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L1	There are no documented statistics or tracking of rabies vaccine compliance in animals adopted from the shelter.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	L6,L8*	No HW testing. Dogs adopted out often with heartworms. Dogs are not isolated and checked for disease before joining the general population.
				<b>M. Population control</b>
			Citation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Additional comments:

\*The Morehouse Humane Society and its members deserve accolades for the job done, funds raised, and dedication to the well-being of the animals. Financial support of the shelter by city government is woefully inadequate, leaving a very substantial burden on the Humane Society. The shelter is severely understaffed considering the large numbers of animals served. The shelter's hours of operation are extended to facilitate access by the public. Written protocols are maintained governing intake, adoption, reclamation, public information, treatment for external parasites, vaccination, deworming, use of inmate labor, cleaning, etc. The city should permit at least one employee to be trained as a Certified Euthanasia technician, so injured and severely ill animals can be euthanized immediately.

B13: Signage at the facility must be improved to comply with state law. Hours and emergency telephone numbers are not prominently displayed for the public.

B20: There is no program to vaccinate animal contact staff for rabies, as is recommended by CDC.

B23: City government should consider including the state's animal shelter standards into local ordinances, as is recommended by state statute.

B25: A veterinarian does not regularly visit the shelter on a twice per week basis, as is recommended (but not required) by LAWC.

Many of the citations pointed out by inspectors, particularly those pertaining to record keeping, can be corrected through use of a computer and shelter computer software program. Many shelter software programs can be acquired at no cost. The chair of LAWC has been granted authority to provide a computer capable of maintaining shelter records. Shelter management should contact LAWC so that purchase of the computer can be coordinated.

Several areas of the shelter feature damaged walls, ceilings and caging. Repairs are recommended. Ideally an appropriate self-contained, secure shelter should be something that the city should plan in the future.

Rating: Below standards ☒ Meets standards ☐ Exceeds standards ☐



## Shelter Development Evaluation

**Shelter Evaluated:** Bastrop Animal Shelter (Morehouse Humane Society) **Evaluation Date:** 12/15/15

**Director:** Dorothy Ford

**Email address:** director@bastropacoc.org

**Contact number:** 318-281-3794

**Evaluator:** Ashley Delrie

**Email:** ashleydelrie@lawc.la.gov

Initial ☒ Follow up ☐

### The LAWC Shelter Development Evaluation

The LAWC Shelter Development Evaluation is a comprehensive assessment to measure the performance of a shelter on humane programs and initiatives, community outreach and partnerships, leadership, law enforcement, and the ability to offer the public a quality, effective shelter.

### Standard Practices

The standard practices section focuses on guidelines and standard practice areas that are recognized by the National Animal Care & Control Association, the ASPCA, and HSUS as essential practices that provide a high quality, humane, and effective shelter. Each shelter will be evaluated on their proficiency of each standard.

#### **Standard Practices are:**

Executive Leadership

Shelter Programs

Community Outreach & Partnerships

Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Planning

### Performance Ratings

Meets all standard practices

Meets most standard practices

Meets some standard practices

Meets few or none of the standard practices

Distinguished Performance

Good Performance

Average Performance

Poor Performance

**\*NOTE: Shelters/agencies that do not manage an effective adoption program will automatically be assigned a poor performance rating.**

## Standard Practices

### 1) Executive Leadership

Written statement of mission, vision, and a strategic plan that outlines short term and long term goals for the current fiscal year

Yes ☐ No ☒

The Director demonstrates knowledge and awareness of the budget and practices appropriate stewardship of animal shelter funds

Yes ☒ No ☐

The shelter/agency actively manages a shelter/agency website accessible to the public with up to date shelter information, current adoptable animals, event information, and shelter program information

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency creates strategies specific to reducing the euthanasia rate

Yes ☒ No ☐

The shelter/agency shows evidence of collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and other government agencies

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency actively educates and encourages the public to report all instances of animal cruelty and neglect.

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency actively communicates to the public on how to properly report cruelty to the agency

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency has a clearly written protocol on how cruelty is reported, investigated, and prosecuted

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency works with local or parish law enforcement to facilitate the prosecution of cruelty cases to the fullest extent of the law.

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs an effective means to enforce compliance with local, parish, and state rabies ordinances

Yes ☐ No ☒

## **Mandatory Registration & Licensing**

**For municipalities where registration & licensing does not exist in the local ordinances:**

The shelter/agency or its governing body shall work to establish mandatory registration and rabies licensing of dogs and cats as recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association **No**

The Director should actively work with local government and elected officials to incorporate licensing into the local or parish ordinances **No**

The Director shall create and advocate a plan to educate the public and government officials about the benefits of mandatory licensing & registration **No**

**For municipalities where registration & licensing does exist in the local ordinances:**

The shelter/agency employs an effective means to enforce registration & licensing compliance and monitors compliance rate. **n/a**

The shelter/agency actively employs methods to increase the compliance rate and educate the public on the law. **n/a**

The shelter/agency institutes a fine for non-compliance with rabies vaccination and license registration. **n/a**

License fees and fines are reviewed annually

**n/a**

## **2) Shelter Programs**

The shelter/agency manages an **effective** adoption program that includes:

Daily adoption times	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Shelter adoption events	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Off-site adoption events	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Extended shelter hours on weekends & evenings	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Shelter/agency website utilization	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social Media	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
The adoption program features a fee	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

The shelter/agency conducts humane education programs for schools, civic organizations, colleges, universities, and community organizations covering subjects on responsible pet ownership, shelter adoption, approaching and reporting strays, dog fighting, services performed by animal control, and the value of animal control in the community

**Yes ☐ No ☒**

The shelter/agency uses a proper owner surrender intake form that captures health history, behaviors, and general personality information about the animal

Need more Information

The shelter/agency adoption program educates the adopter on heartworm disease and the importance of administering heartworm preventative medication to the animal at the time of the adoption

Yes ☒ No ☐

The shelter/agency actively engages in promotional practices and utilizes a variety of communication tools to increase public awareness about the shelter and adoptable animals

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency uses a shelter managed social media and website program to communicate to the public about shelter policies, promotions, events, programs, and other useful information

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs a shelter managed foster care program to care for pets at sites external to the shelter itself

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs a rescue program to help reduce the shelter euthanasia rate

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs a Return to Owner (RTO) program that helps return licensed animals to their rightful owners. A "Free Ride Home"

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency has an efficient program in place to increase owner redemption rates

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency has an effective volunteer program

Partially

The shelter/agency has a surrender prevention program, or provides references to those unsure of whether a pet requires surrender

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs an enrichment and/or socialization program for shelter inhabitants

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency participates in an inmate/pet rehabilitation program

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency participates in community programs at schools and centers

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency participates in an animal transport program

Yes ☐ No ☒



The shelter/agency conducts, cooperates with, or recommends obedience training programs to adoptive owners or other pet owners in the community

Need more information

The shelter/agency employs a bathing and grooming program to those animals suffering from coat conditions affecting the health of the animals

Yes ☒ No ☐

### 3) Community Outreach & Partnerships

#### Spay & Neuter Outreach & Education

The shelter/agency employs an effective spay/neuter education program

Yes No ☒

The shelter/agency implements effective community initiatives to increase awareness about local resources for low cost spay/neuter services

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency participates in an income based subsidized spay/neuter program

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency implements community outreach spay/neuter initiatives targeting low income and high stray intake areas

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency actively seeks out spay/neuter grant opportunities

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency employs shelter based spay/neuter community incentives programs

Yes ☐ No ☒

#### Partnerships

The shelter/agency actively seeks out and develops partnerships with animal welfare organizations and rescue groups

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency works to develop partnerships with the local business community

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency works to develop partnerships with the local veterinarian community

Yes ☒ No ☐

The shelter/agency conducts community reduced price rabies vaccination clinics

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency partners with local media to promote shelter adoption and shelter resources?

Yes ☐ No ☒

The shelter/agency partners with local media to promote spay & neuter education & resources?

Yes ☐ No ☒

#### 4) Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Planning

The shelter/agency maintains an emergency response plan for natural disasters and other catastrophic events (OEP & LDAF requirements)

Yes ☒ No ☐

The shelter/agency conducts drills and trainings to assure effectiveness of emergency response plans

Yes ☒ No ☐

#### Performance Rating

Meets some standard practices

Average Performance

#### SHELTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The goal of the shelter development evaluation is to highlight specific shelter practice areas where Bastrop Animal Shelter (Morehouse Humane Society) is demonstrating a strong level of proficiency, and to identify other shelter practice areas that are in need of improvement. This will allow the agency, and Bastrop's local governing body, to conduct a thorough review of areas where the agency is currently successful, and other areas that are identified as in need of improvement. LAWC's goal with this evaluation is to give recommendations to the agency so a "working plan" of development can be created and implemented over time. LAWC will periodically, and during subsequent inspections, refer to this document to assess if the recommendations are being implemented and are helping to improve the agency. Our goal is to help the agency build on current areas of success, and offer support in areas of development.

It was evident during the inspection that the Bastrop Animal Shelter & Morehouse Humane Society are working very hard to prevent the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals in their custody. The Morehouse Humane Society and shelter staff members should be commended for their tireless commitment to serving the animals and the people in their community. The commitment to the welfare of animals in their custody should be recognized and applauded. The staff has a willingness to learn new methods on how to improve the shelter; its operations and conditions. It was clear during the inspection that the shelter would greatly improve with proper funding from taxpayer monies, increased staff, and more support from the local governing authority. The conviction from shelter staff and humane society representatives to provide the Bastrop community with a quality public shelter was evident during the inspection. Adequate resources, funding, staff, and support were the main problems identified during the inspection. With more support from the local governing authority, and law enforcement agencies, the shelter could greatly improve.

#### Proficiency Areas:

- The adoption program is efficient and accessible to the public
- A strong partnership with the local veterinarian community has been established
- Efforts to spay/neuter animals prior to relinquishing the animal to adoptive owner are in place
- Heartworm disease prevention education

- A committed staff
- Strong fundraising efforts on behalf of the Morehouse Humane Society
- Vaccinations upon intake
- A low euthanasia rate
- Microchip scanning protocol in place
- Animals are in good condition properly feed and cared for

#### **Areas of Development & Recommendations:**

- **Computerized Records-** LAWC strongly recommends the shelter use a computer to conduct daily operations. A computerized shelter software system should be utilized to help track intake, euthanasia, individual animal information, and adoption. The Pet Point shelter software system is an efficient software system that should be considered. The shelter should submit a written request to LAWC for consideration for a computer loan or purchase to help with operations of the shelter.
- **Bastrop Animal Ordinances-** LAWC recommends that all animal control ordinances be thoroughly reviewed and updated to reflect the current needs of the public and the agency. By updating the local ordinances, the agency will be able to respond to the public's needs more appropriately. It will also give the agency the legal authority to govern animal control related issues more effectively. LAWC strongly recommends a joint task force and/or animal advisory committee be formed with cooperation from local parish officials, the agency, local veterinarians, and community members to update and rewrite the ordinances.
- **Mandatory Rabies Licensing-** LAWC strongly recommends that shelter leadership and the board of the Morehouse Humane Society advocate for a local mandatory rabies licensing & registration law. The benefits of enforcing this local law include an increase in rabies compliance and shelter funding (if a fee is assessed). LAWC can assist in these efforts by conducting an educational presentation on rabies control and the benefits of mandatory registration and licensing to the elected governing authority. Please submit a written request to the commission if interested.
- **Shelter Funding-** adequate funding for the shelter's basic needs should be met by the local governing authority through proper use of taxpayer monies. Funding should be made available to hire an appropriate number of staff members, purchase a shelter computer, provide for basic storage for food, fencing repairs, construction of additional runs, proper signage, construction of a socialization and enrichment area and a "meet & greet" area for potential adopters, and for additional animal control vehicles.
- **Staff-** hiring adequate staff should be a MAJOR priority. Trained animal control officers should be hired. Certified euthanasia technicians and kennel workers should be hired to properly care for the volume of animals in the shelter's custody. At least two members of the staff should be certified euthanasia technicians.
- **Strategic Planning-** a written shelter plan outlining the agency's short-term and long-term goals should be in place and updated annually. A continuous review of the plan should be conducted to evaluate if the agency is achieving specified goals and to ensure that the goals are relevant to needs of the agency.
- **Cruelty Reporting & Education-** LAWC strongly recommends that the agency improve on its communication to the public on properly reporting animal cruelty to the agency. A written protocol should be developed and communicated to the public on an ongoing basis. An anonymous hotline or email reporting system should be considered. In addition, a "see something, say something" reporting program should be considered and be available on the agency's website. It is recommended that the agency develop a written protocol on how cruelty complaints are handled internally. All protocols and/or agency policies regarding cruelty should be added to the agency's policy manual. Strong collaboration with the sheriff's department is essential and recommended and should be included in the protocol.
- **Shelter Website-** a website for the shelter should be made available to the public. The shelter should actively manage the website. The website should have animal control ordinances, up-to date shelter

information and resources, animals available for adoption, and spay & neuter resources and information available.

- **Adoption Events-** consider conducting off-site adoption events to help with adoption efforts.
- **Community Outreach-** consider partnering with local schools & civic organizations to help increase awareness about adoption, spay & neuter, and the shelter.
- **Local Business Partnerships-** efforts to develop partnerships with local businesses to help with adoption efforts and shelter needs should be considered. For example, Tractor Supply, the local Toyota dealership, and Super One could be helpful partners.
- **Community Education-** efforts should be made to educate the community of spay & neuter, heartworm disease prevention, and responsible pet ownership.
- **Enrichment and Socialization programs-** developing a strong enrichment program to properly socialize the animals while they are in the shelter's custody is highly recommended. The purpose of the enrichment program is to reduce stress and improve the well being of the animal by providing physical and mental stimulation and allowing animals more control over their environment. The use of volunteers can be very helpful in implementing an enrichment program.
- **Volunteer Program-** a comprehensive volunteer program should be developed. Utilize community events to help recruit new volunteers. Partner with local civic & religious organizations and schools to help in recruiting efforts. A volunteer protocol should be in place and proper training of volunteers is advised.
- **Owner Redemption-** the agency should encourage owners to place identification tags on their animals to help with reunification efforts.
- **Foster Program-** a shelter managed foster care program should be considered. A smaller scale program could be administered to help improve follow-up and accountability of foster homes. Foster homes can serve as temporary homes to animals that have been deemed available for adoption. This will help with crowding at the shelter and adoption efforts.
- **Rescue Program-** developing strong relationships with local and regional rescue organization should be seriously considered. This will allow many animals to find homes more quickly and help with overcrowding at the shelter.
- **Transport Programs-** consider partnering with rescue and humane organizations that participate in transport programs.
- **Shelter Awareness & Events-** consider partnering with local media outlets (tv, newspaper, and radio) to increase awareness about the shelter and adoptable animals. A special "Commitment to the Community" event should be considered to recognize the Morehouse Humane Society for their 30 years of dedicated service to helping the shelter. This kind of event could be a great way to raise funds and awareness about the shelter. A "Pet of the Week" campaign to highlight a particular pet on tv or in the newspaper could also be helpful.
- **Intra Agency Collaboration-** partner with other local government agencies to help create awareness about adoptable pets and the shelter. Posting links and information on other government agency websites could be helpful in increasing awareness about adoptable animals and shelter events.

#### **Spay & Neuter Education & Resources-**

- A spay & neuter voucher tracking system should be implemented to track compliance with the state sterilization law.
- The state sterilization law should be added to the Bastrop "Spay/Neuter Certificate" to inform the public of the state law requirements.
- A comprehensive review should be conducted to determine how the shelter can improve on educating the public on the benefits of spaying and neutering pets and what resources are available in the community/region. For example, providing information about Dr. Tyler Thomas mobile spay & neuter clinic could be helpful.
- The shelter should create spay & neuter initiatives to encourage the public to sterilized their pets.

- Consider developing a city wide spay & neuter education and awareness program for the public.
- Consider supporting a low income spay & neuter subsidized program. Please review DeSoto Parish's and Caddo Parish's SNIP (spay & neuter incentive programs) as examples of successful subsidized programs in the region.
- Consider establishing a partnership with the local water or utility company to help with the dissemination of information about the benefits of spaying & neutering and how to access local/regional resources. Informational inserts into consumer bills can be an effective way to reach a large percentage of the community.
- A billboard or placing ads in the local newspapers can be helpful options to increase awareness about the importance of spaying & neutering and what resources are available.
- Seek out spay & neuter grant opportunities from local and national non-profits organizations and local/state foundations.
- Leverage relationships with local media outlets to run public service announcements about local & regional spay & neuter resources available to the public.
- Evaluate the public's accessibility to the current spay & neuter resources.